have therefore no information about this firm. No export of Vinca-Rosea from the northern State has been reported.

(c) and (d) In view of the limited potential of Vinca-Rosea in the northern States, no incentives are being given by the Central Government. Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Lucknow has developed agrotechnology for cultivation of Vinca-Rosea and extraction of alkalides therefrom.

US threat to impose duty on India's engineering exports

2818. SHRI N. E. BALARAM :
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States Government has threatened to impose countervailing duty on India's engineering exports to that country to neutralise the IPRS benefit given to engineering exporters by the Indian Government ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent it is likely to affect our engineering export trade to the United States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI) : (a) and (b) The US Government have been levying countervailing duty on iron metal castings imported from India since 1980. Following the 1984 review of the countervailing duty order they made a preliminary determination on 7 October, 1986 under which the reimbursements made to Indian exporters of castings under the International Price Reimbursement Scheme (IPRS) have been considered as a countervailable subsidy. We are awaiting the results of the final determination and in the meanwhile representations have been made to the U.S. authorities that reimbursements under IPRS should not be considered as a countervailable subsidy.

(c) In case the decision to treat IPRS as a counterviable subsidy is upheld in the final determination by the US Government, our exports of engineering goods could be adversely affected. It is however not possible to quantify the effect as much would depend upon the extent to which IPRS is availed of by the Indian exporters and whether in respect of such exports the US authorities are able to establish injury to their domestic industries.

Problems of the jute industry

2819. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether he had held a meeting with the representatives of jute mills, Central trade unions and the Central and State Government officials on November 14, 1986 to discuss all industrial relations/ problems of the jute industry;

(b) if so, what are the details of the issues discussed therein; and

(c) what is the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) The West Bengal Labour Minister convened a tripartite meeting on 14th November, 1986 at Calcutta to discuss the Schemes regarding the Special Funds announced for the modernisation and diversification of the Jute Industry. I attended the Meeting at the invitation of the State Government. At the meeting the participants also discussed issues relating, among others, to continued lockouts of a large number of jute mills, growing competition from synthetic products and defaults in payments of PF and ESI contributions by the Jute Mills.

Talks with Pakistan regarding terrorist activities

2820. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD :
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether talks were held with Pakistan during the recent SAARC summit at Bangalore regarding the activities of the terrorists; and

(b) if so, what was the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It was agreed that a meeting of the concerned officials of the two Governments at the level of Secretary will be held at Lahore in the first week of December, 1986 to work out detailed measures in controlling terrorism as well as illicit crossing, drug trafficking and smuggling along the border.

Decision to create a regional fund at SAARC Conference

2821. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether SAARC at its recent summit held at Bangalore decided to create a regional fund to finance the institution to be set up under the Association; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what will be the India's contribution to this fund ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Aid to poor through Banks

2822. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the aid given to poor by Banks is inadequate as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 21st November, 1986;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in regard thereto; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to provide adequate aid to the poor through banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANARDHAN POOJARI) : (a) to (c) Banks provide assistance to the weaker sections under various credit linked schemes. The public sector banks have been advised that their weaker section advances should constitute at least 10% of their total outstanding advances. As at the end of June, 1986, the weaker section advances of the 28 public sector banks, as a whole, constituted 10.6% of their total advances. The weaker section advances are regularly monitored by the individual banks, Reserve Bank of India and the Government. A number of schemes for the persons living below the poverty line are being implemented with a view to improve their quality of life.

Grant-in-aid to voluntary organisations

2823. SHRI THANGABAALU : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) what are the guidelines followed for giving grants-in-aid to voluntary organisations in regard to various projects relating to the Ministry of Tourism;

(b) what are the names of the organisations to whom grant-in-aid has been given during the year 1985-86; and

(c) whether the sanctioned amount was fully utilised; if not, what action Government have taken against those organisations ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED) : (a) and (b) Grant-in-aid is provided by the Ministry to Bhartiya Yatri Avas Vikas Samiti—a registered body under the Societies Registeration Act XXI of 1860, within the stipulation laid under General Financial Rules. The Samiti constructs Yatrikas/Dharamsalas at places of religious importance. Funds to the tune of 90% of the cost of construction are released by the Ministry. The balance funds as well as land is arranged for by the Samiti through donations from the State Govts. and other charitable organisations/individuals.

(c) The Samiti has utilised Rs. 11.00 lakhs so far during the current financial year out of Rs. 15.00 lakhs released during 1985-86.

Indira Vikas Patra

2824. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 'Indira Vikas Patra', the small savings scheme recently introduced by Government will help concealing 'black money' and will prove